

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



TONI ATKINS
COUNCILMEMBER
THIRD DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: George Biagi

(619)236-6633 Fax:(619)595-1481

gbiagi@sandiego.gov

38th Street Canyon Neighborhood Park Receives \$272,960 Federal Grant

SAN DIEGO-The 38th Street Canyon Park in City Heights moved one step closer to reality with the recent news that the City's Park and Recreation Department had received notification of a \$272,960 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for the park. The grant, when added to \$50,960 in Park and Recreation Department matching funds and \$222,000 in Mid-City Special Park Fee funds, will cover the \$545,000 cost of the project.

"The Mid-City area of District Three has some of the most park-deficient communities in San Diego. Disrupted by construction of the I-15 freeway project for more than 20 years, City Heights has grown into one of the most densely populated communities in the County," said Councilmember Toni Atkins. "When you combine this with the lack of vacant land for acquisition and development, it's a real challenge to find available space. That's why this park is so important. The development of the 38th Street Canyon Neighborhood Park will help bridge this gap and bring us closer to meeting the park acreage needs for this Mid-City community."

The completed park will include a turfed area, picnic facilities, walkways and security lighting.

Councilmember Atkins has been a strong advocate of finding additional resources from state and federal grant programs and other governmental sources to help fund projects within the Third Council District. Just last month Governor Gray Davis delivered \$6 million in state funds for Balboa Park restoration projects, including the construction of a Veterans Memorial Park.

"Receiving this grant is a huge boost to our efforts to fill the funding gap for much-needed park projects in our district," said Atkins. "The fact that this was a competitive grant makes it all the more satisfying since it validates what we've been saying all along--that our Mid-City neighborhoods need and deserve more green and open space."

A fully executed contract for the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The design and construction process will follow shortly thereafter in early 2003.

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